

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0013] on page 3 with the following amended paragraph:

[0013] Figure 5 is an exploded perspective view of [[a]] the embodiment of Figure 4;

Please replace paragraph [0018] on page 14 with the following amended paragraph:

[0018] At the outset, it should be appreciated that like reference numbers on different drawing figures represent similar structural elements. It should also be appreciated that, while a number of different embodiments and variations of the present invention are shown in the various drawings, the invention as claimed is not intended to be limited to these specific embodiments as the claims define a broader invention that can take many different shapes and structures. Additionally, while it is preferable to use the present invention in association with ~~the stage drive control described in "Interchangeable Microscope Stage Drive Assembly", filed concurrently herewith and incorporated herein by reference, or~~ with the stage movement means as described in "Microscope Stage Apparatus and Movement Means", filed ~~concurrently herewith~~ November 25, 2003, as US Application 10/721,695 and incorporated herein by reference ~~, or~~

~~with the interchangeable fine adjustment knob described in~~
~~"Interchangeable Microscope Fine Adjustment Means", filed~~
~~concurrently herewith and incorporated herein by reference,~~ the
present invention may be used in association with virtually any
type of microscope and is not intended to be limited to the
specific microscope disclosed in the present specification and
disclosure. Finally, in the present disclosure and claims, it
should be appreciated that the terms "insert" and/or "plate" are
not intended to be limited to the removable plate like
structures as illustrated in the present Figures, but may
include semi-permanent surfaces such as painted surfaces,
adhesive films, colored magnets, etc. or other means for
providing contrast between a specimen and the contrasting stage
insert described herein.